

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-33, 35, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 50-52, 54, 56, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68 and 70-74 were previously cancelled. Claims 34 and 59 are currently amended. Claim 37 is currently cancelled. Claims 39, 41, 43, 45-49, 53, 55, 57, 58, 61, 63, 65, 67 and 69 are carried forward, all as follows.

Claims 1-33 (Cancelled)

34. (Currently Amended) A guide element of a web processing machine comprising:

[[A]] a rigid load bearing support having a support length and a full circumferential surface extending over at least a portion of said support length, said support including a fluid-permeable support material, said fluid permeable support material having an a circumferential outer support surface, said outer support surface of said fluid permeable support material being provided with a plurality of fluid openings in said fluid permeable support material and extending over said full circumferential surface in said at least a portion of said support length of said rigid load bearing support circumferential surface;

[[A]] a coating of a micro-porous, fluid permeable, open-pored sinter material covering said fluid permeable support material on portion of said full circumferential outer support surface of said rigid, load bearing support;

a plurality of micro-openings in said coating of said micro- porous, air permeable open-pored sinter material, said plurality of micro-openings being open pores formed in said coating of said micro-porous, fluid permeable, open-pored sinter material, said plurality of micro-openings being sized to allow emergence of a fluid under pressure from said plurality of fluid openings in said fluid-permeable support material over in said at least a portion of said full circumferential surface of said at least a portion of said support length one longitudinal section

of said guide element, said fluid under pressure emerging and through said coating of said micro-porous, fluid permeable, open-pored sinter material as a fluid cushion; and

means supporting said guide element adapted to be positioned in a selected one of at least first and second angular positions in respect to a direction of travel of a web being guided by said guide element, said fluid under pressure emerging from said plurality of micro-openings of said fluid permeable open-pored sinter material over said full circumferential surface of said at least a portion of said support length of said rigid load bearing support in each of said first and second angular positions of said guide element, said web being supported by said fluid cushion while being guided by said guide element.

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Cancelled)

39. (Previously Presented) The guide element of claim 34 wherein said guide element is pivotable through 90° and wherein in said first angular position a first half-shell-like half of a surface area is engaged by the web, and in said second angular position a second half-shell-like half of said surface area is engaged by the web.

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Previously Presented) The guide element of claim 34 wherein said open pores in said coating of said micro-porous, fluid permeable, open-pored sinter material have a mean diameter between 5 μm and 50 μm .

42. (Cancelled)

43. (Previously Presented) The guide element of claim 34 wherein said open-pored sinter material is sinter metal.

44. (Cancelled)

45. (Previously Presented) The guide element of claim 34 wherein said coating has a thickness of less than 1 mm.

46. (Previously Presented) The guide element of claim 34 wherein said fluid permeable support material has a plurality of fluid passages, which are not connected with each other, extending over a length and width of said support.

47. (Previously Presented) The guide element of claim 34 wherein said support is a support tube with a hollow profile.

48. (Previously Presented) The guide element of claim 47 wherein said support tube has a wall thickness of at least 3 mm.

49. (Previously Presented) The guide element of claim 34 wherein a degree of opening of said micro-openings in said micro-porous, fluid permeable, open-pored sinter material is

between 3% and 30% of an outer surface area of said coating of said micro-porous, fluid permeable, open-pored sinter material.

50-52. (Cancelled)

53. (Previously Presented) The guide element of claim 34 wherein between 1 to 20 standard cubic meters of fluid per hour emerges from a square meter of said circumferential surface.

54. (Cancelled)

55. (Previously Presented) The guide element of claim 34 wherein between 2 to 15 standard cubic meters of fluid per hour emerge from a square meter of said circumferential surface.

56. (Cancelled)

57. (Previously Presented) The guide element of claim 34 wherein said coating of said micro-porous, fluid permeable, open-pored sinter material is charged from an interior of said rigid load bearing support with at least 1 bar of excess pressure.

58. (Previously Presented) The guide element of claim 34 wherein said micro-porous, air permeable, open-pored sinter material is charged from an interior of said rigid load bearing support with an excess pressure of more than 4 bar.

59. (Currently Amended) The guide element of claim 34 further including a feed line adapted to supply fluid to said guide element and having an inner cross-sectioned sectional area no greater than 100 mm².

60. (Cancelled)

61. (Previously Presented) The guide element of claim 34 wherein said guide element has an outer diameter of between 60 mm and 100 mm.

62. (Cancelled)

63. (Previously Presented) The guide element of claim 34 wherein said guide element has a length of at least 1,200 mm.

64. (Cancelled)

65. (Previously Presented) The guide element of claim 34 wherein said guide element is a turning bar.

66. (Cancelled)

67. (Previously Presented) The guide element of claim 34 wherein said fluid under pressure is compressed air.

68. (Cancelled)

69. (Previously Presented) The guide element of claim 34 wherein said coating has a thickness of less than 1 mm.

70-74. (Cancelled)